



CALIFORNIA GARDEN

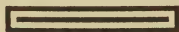
IN THIS NUMBER

20TH ANNUAL FALL FLOWER SHOW
PREMIUM LIST
ON THE ROCKS
MUMMY TALES AND SEED FACTS

SEPTEMBER, 1926

TEN CENTS

EARLY FLOWERING SPENCER SWEET PEAS



Novelties, MARY PICKFORD, delicate pink, slightly suffused salmon.

SWEET LAVENDER, pure lavender, very large, frilled.

PINK CHEROKEE, pink suffused salmon, on cream ground.

NEW BLUE, very fine shade of dark blue.

Seasonable ANNUAL and PERENNIAL FLOWER SEEDS of BEST STRAINS and STURDY BEDDING PLANTS now ready.



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Vol. 18

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER, 1926

No. 3

PREMIUM LIST

San Diego Floral Association 20th Annual Fall Flower Show—September 11th-12th 1926—Balboa Park

Section A—Open to Professionals

Class

- *1. Best Collection of Decorative plants and Flowers, arranged for effect in space 100 square feet.
2. Best Collection of Twenty-five Shrubs for Garden Use.
3. Best Collection of Vines.
4. Best Collection of Potted or Boxed Ferns.
5. Best Specimen Sword Fern.
6. Best Specimen Fern Other Than Sword Fern.
7. Best Decorative Plant for House.
8. Best New Plant or Flower Not Exhibited Before.
9. Best Collection of Potted Plants.
- *10. Best Display of Begonias, grown in pots or boxes.
11. Best Vase, Basket or Other Arrangement of Zinnias.
12. Best Collection of Zinnias.
- *13. Best Collection of Asters.
- *14. Best Arranged Basket of Flowers by Professionals.
15. Best Civic or Service Display of Plants and Flowers, Quality and Arrangement to be Main Points.

Section B—For Amateurs.

- *15a. Best Garden Display from 50 foot lot.
- *15b. Best Garden Display from over 50 foot lot.
16. Best Collection Asters American Beauty Type.
17. Best Collection Asters, Crego Type.
18. Best Collection Asters, Victoria Type.
18. Best Collection of Asters, Single Type.
20. Best Vase of Asters, any Variety, 25 Blooms.
- *21. Aster Sweepstake.
- *22. Best Collection of Annuals.
- *23. Best Arranged Basket of Flowers.
- *24. Best Collection of Bulbous Flowers.
25. Best Collection Gladiolus. Open to all.
26. Best Display of African Marigolds.

27. Best Display of French Marigolds.
28. Best Collection of Perennials.
- *29. Best Collection of Zinnias.
30. Best Six Blooms Zinnias, Red or Red Shades.
31. Best Six Blooms Zinnias, White or White Shades.
32. Best Six Blooms Zinnias, Pink or Pink Shades.
33. Best Six Blooms Zinnias, Orange or Orange Shades.
34. Best Six Blooms Zinnias, Yellow or Yellow Shades.
35. Best Six Blooms Zinnias, Lavender or Lavender Shades.
36. Best Six Blooms Zinnias, Any Other Color.
37. Best Six Blooms Zinnias, Picotee Type.
48. Best Twenty-five Blooms Mixed Zinnias, Small Mexican.
39. Best Collection Liliput Zinnias.
- *40 Zinnia Sweepstakes.
41. Best Arranged Vase or Bowl of Zinnias, Greenery Allowed.
42. Best Arranged Basket of Zinnias, Greenery Allowed.

Section C

43. Best Collection of Potted Fibrous Begonias.
44. Best Display of Cut Blooms, Fibrous Begonias.
45. Best One Specimen Fibrous Begonia.
46. Best Display Potted Fibrous Begonias.
57. Best One Specimen Tuberous Begonia.
- *48. Best Collection Rex Begonias grown in pots or other receptacle.
49. Best One Specimen Rex Begonia grown in pot or other receptacle.
50. Best Specimen Rex Begonia, San Diego Seedling, open competition.
51. Best Arranged Basket, Vase or Bowl of Ferns and Begonias.
52. Best Specimen Maidenhair Fern.
53. Best Specimen Fern Other Than Maidenhair.

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- 54. Best Collection of Ferns.
- 55. Best Fern Hanging Basket.
- 56. Best Hanging Basket Other than Fern.
- 57. Best Foliage Plant for Interior Decoration.
- 58. Best Flowering Vine (must be in flower).
- 59. Best Collection of Cut Sprays, Flowering Trees or Shrubs.
- 60. Best Collection Berried Shrubs (cut sprays or in pots).
- 61. Best Collection Bamboo and Grasses.
- 62. Best New Flower or Plant Not Before Exhibited.
- *63. Best Dining Table Decoration.

Section D—Dahlias—Professionals

- *63a. Best General Display Arranged for Effect, potted plants and foliage allowed for embellishment.
- 64. Best 12 Blooms, any variety.
- 65. Best 12 Blooms Cactus, 1 or more varieties.
- 66. Best 12 Blooms Hybrid Cactus, 1 or more varieties.
- 67. Best 12 Blooms Collarettes, 1 or more varieties.
- 68. Best 12 Blooms Decorative, 1 or more varieties.
- 69. Best 12 Blooms or Fancy Variegated, 1 or more varieties.
- 70. Best 12 Blooms Peony, 1 or more varieties.

- 71. Best 12 Blooms Pom Pom, 1 or more varieties.
- *72. Best 12 Blooms Shown, 1 or more varieties.
- 73. Best 12 Blooms Semi-double or Duplex, 1 or more varieties.
- 74. Best Collection Cactus Dahlias, 1 bloom each variety.
- 75. Best Collection Hybrid Cactus, 1 bloom each variety.
- 76. Best Collection Collarettes, 1 bloom each variety.
- 77. Best Collection Decorative, 1 bloom each variety.
- 78. Best Collection Fancy or Variegated, 1 bloom each variety.
- 79. Best Collection Peony Flowered, 1 bloom each variety.
- 80. Best Collection Pom Poms, 3 blooms each variety.
- 81. Best Collection Show, 1 bloom each.
- 82. Best Collection Semi-double or Duplex, 3 blooms each.
- 83. Best Collection Single Dahlias, 3 blooms each variety.
- 84. Best Collection of California Dahlias, 12 blooms, 12 varieties.
- 85. Best Established Three-year-old Seedling. Open to all.
- 86. Best Collection Unregistered Seedlings. Open to all.
- 87. Best 1925 Seedling. Open to all.
- 88. Best 1926 Seedling. Open to all.
- *89. One Best Bloom Exhibited at Show, stem and foliage considered.
- 90. Smallest Perfect Pom Pom Dahlia.
- *91. Most Artistic Basket of Dahlias in Show, use of other foliage permitted.
- 92. Most Artistic Basket of Pom Poms in Show, use of other foliage permitted.
- *93. Dahlia Cup for Best (6) Blooms (1) bloom each of 6 classes, one bloom only in each vase. Open to all.
- *94. Best 6 Blooms, 6 Varieties, California Introductions. (Gold Medal Dahlia Society of California.) Open to all.

Amateurs

- *95. Best Collection of Dahlias, 1 of each variety. Prize Competitive Cup to be won for three years.
- 96. Best Six Blooms Cactus, 1 or more varieties.
- 97. Best Six Blooms Hybrid Cactus, 1 or more varieties.
- 98. Best Six Blooms Collarettes, 1 or more varieties.
- 99. Best Six Blooms Decorative, 1 or more varieties.
- 100. Best Six Blooms Fancy or Variegated, 1 or more varieties.
- 101. Best Six Blooms Peony, 1 or more varieties.
- 102. Best Six Blooms Pom Pom, 1 or more varieties.
- 103. Best Six Blooms, Show, 1 or more va-

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rieties.

104. Best Six Blooms Semi-double or Duplex, 1 or more varieties.
 105. Best Six Blooms Single, 1 or more varieties.
 106. Best Collection Cactus Dahlias, 1 bloom each variety.
 107. Best Collection Hybrid Cactus, 1 bloom each variety.
 108. Best Collection Collarettes, 3 blooms each variety.
 109. Best Collection Decorative, 1 bloom each variety.
 110. Best Collection Peony, 1 bloom each variety.
 111. Best Collection Pom Poms, 3 blooms each variety.
 112. Best Collection Show, 1 bloom each variety.
 113. Best Collection Semi-double or Duplex 3 blooms each variety.
 114. Best Collection Single, 3 blooms each variety.
 - *115. Best Dahlia Exhibited by Amateur.
 - *116. Best Artistic Basket of Dahlias, use of other foliage permitted.
 - *117. Best Artistic Basket of Pom Poms, use of other foliage permitted.
 - *118. Best Keeping Dahlia in Amateur Section.
- *Indicates cup or other trophy in class so indicated.
- Dahlias will be judged according to following points:
- Color 20, Stem and Foliage 25, Substance 15, Form, 20, Size 20, equals 100.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

San Diego Floral Association, Sept., Oct.,
Nov., Dec., 1926.

AFTERNOON MEETINGS

- October 5th. Chrysanthemum Show and Tea.
Talk by Mr. Campbell.
- November 2nd. A stroll through Mission Hills Gardens or a visit to the Kahn and Wangenheim Gardens.
- December 7th. Exhibit and sale of Christmas wreaths and cone and berry bearing trees and shrubs. Talk on Church and House decorating.

EVENING MEETINGS

- September 21. The making of Rock Gardens and Water Gardens. Miss Robinson and Miss Olsen.
- October 19. Wild Flowers of California. By Mr. Robt. Kessler, illustrated by Mr. Harold Taylor, and exhibit of the Valentine plantings.
- November 16. Orchard and Kitchen Garden Deciduous Trees, Mr. Johnson. Citrus and Tropical Trees, Mr. Sallmon. Vegetables and Berries.
- December 21. No meeting.

SHOW COMMITTEES

20th Annual Fall Flower Show, September 11th and 12th.

- Dahlias—John Marshall. Phone Hillcrest 4193-W.
- Zinnias—Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Gibb. Phone Hill. 2947.
- Begonias and Ferns—John Morley. Phone Main 0605.
- Garden Displays—Mrs. Geo. Gardner. Phone Bayview 0346-M.
- Annuals and Perennials—Mrs. Leonard Ellis. Phone Hill. 0724.
- Asters—Dr. Anita Muhl. Phone Hill 0591.
- Bulbs—Mrs. Lena Rutan. Phone Hill. 3209-R.
- Miscellaneous—Walter Merrill. Phone Bayview 0601-J.
- Baskets—Mrs. Fred Scripps, Mrs. B. L. Elliott. Phone Hill. 0378.
- Dining Tables—Miss Alice Halliday. Phone Hill. 4041-W.
- Professionals—Walter Birch. Phone Main 0842.
- Floor Plans and Judges—John Morley.
- Chairman Clerks—Mrs. Case. Phone 3-1502.
- Information for Entries—Miss Alice Jones, Phone 1482-J.
- Naming—Miss Mary Matthews. Hill. 4710-W; Mrs. Hathaway.
- Gate—Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Elliott.
- Publicity—Mr. Neff Bakkers.
- General Chairman—Mrs. Mary Greer. Phone Hill 1550-J.
- House Committee—Miss Alice Halliday, Mrs. H. W. Gibb.
- Program Committee—Walter Merrill, Mrs. John Burnham, Walter Birch.

AUGUST MEETING

The regular meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held in the Floral Building in Balboa Park Tuesday, August 17th, 1926; Mrs. Mary A. Greer presiding.

Mrs. Greer made an earnest appeal for larger attendance at the monthly meetings.

Special attention of the meeting was called to the coming Fall Flower Show, to be held in Balboa Park September 11th and 12th.

Mrs. Greer then spoke of the valuable and interesting collection of books on file in the Floral Building, which can be inspected on Thursdays, from 2:00 o'clock to 4:30 o'clock p. m. The building will be open and some one in attendance between those hours.

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Tuesday, September 21st, in the Floral Building, at which meeting rock gardens will be the subject.

Mr. Fred McNabb was then introduced by the chair as the speaker of the evening. He opened his talk on the subject of sweet peas, speaking of the difficulty in getting the seed to

(Continued on Page 4)

ORCHIDS FOR THE BORDER

By Harry Johnson.

Of all the thousands of species of orchids known to science and cultivated under glass, surprisingly few of them have yielded to ordinary garden conditions even in our mild climate. This, perhaps, is not greatly to be wondered at after a study of the ecology of the group. They are plants which have made a success of colonizing habitats where less specialized types cannot exist. They have become so perfectly adapted to particular and rigorous conditions that the normal elasticity of the ordinary run of plants has been lost and thus unless the natural environmental factors are approximated they soon dwindle away. Some of the species are, however, at home with us and thrive without especial care.

A few years ago I saw in the garden of Dr. Doremus, whose grounds in Santa Barbara contain many rare and beautiful plants, a specimen of *Epidendrum O'Brienianum* in full flower. It was growing in a dry border by the side of a driveway and in company with a *Geranium* and *Mesembrianthemum* and appeared to be quite at home. Later I saw it in the rockery of Mr. Evans in Santa Monica. Here it was growing rampantly and flowering well, much better than one generally sees it under glass. Recently I saw the old plant again in Santa Barbara spreading its brilliant spikes of red flowers as cheerfully as before. It would seem that this hybrid will eventually become more common for it is one of the easiest to propagate, young plants forming on the old flower spikes and every branch rooting at the nodes. For an orchid it is quite free in growth sending up long canes with distichously arranged, leathery leaves which turn reddish in the sunhine, each cane terminating in an inflorescence that lasts for many weeks. The flowers are about an inch across, bright scarlet-red in color and with a pretty fringed lip, a number being open at a time.

The conditions under which I have seen it grown were quite ordinary, the soil well drained and rather on the dry side though I should imagine if the drainage were perfect it would stand quite a bit of watering. Stagnation at the root would result in the base dying off. The kind of soil is probably not important if not too hard, for the roots do not penetrate deeply anyway. Both colonies observed were in full sun.

Some years ago while collecting plants in Central America I was familiar with one of the parents of the above, *E. radicans*. The specific name is derived from its habit of sprawling and rooting at the nodes. In the mountains of Guatemala it is a common wayside weed, if such an adjective may be applied to a splendid flower. Here it challenged the

bordering grasses lifting its scarlet blossoms from the tangle or rambling over the dark limestone outcroppings rooting in the crannies along the *Tydis* and *Achimenes*. It was quite at home in the sticky red clay of the eroded areas or in the spongy black humus forming the normal covering. The Kekchi Indians who have an eye for their beautiful wildlings picked the flowers for an offering at the wayside shrines, and seldom did you see the Cross without small jars of these flaming orchids. I never saw it as an actual epiphyte in the trees but quite certainly it must ascend above the jungle for the clearings are man-made and are won from the encroaching and exuberant army of trees only by ceaseless labor.

The genus *Epidendrum* contains over five hundred species native to the tropical regions of the Americas some growing as far north as Florida. Many of them have powerfully and sweetly scented flowers though few are brilliant enough to be grown by fanciers. Most of them have greenish or somber flowers while the plants may be tufted or sprawling in habit. In numbers they rank high, loading the trees from the lowlands to the mountain tops till one really thinks of them as weeds, clambering up the fence posts or perching on every stump and tree.

AUGUST MEETING

(Continued from Page 3)

germinate for summer and early fall sowing.

Sweet peas, planted in August or September, will be in bloom by Christmas, if the ground is well prepared and the rows shaded with twigs, weeds or burlap; but whatever is used for shading should be removed as soon as the young plants show. Rows running northeast and southwest get the best sunlight.

On the subject of mildew, Mr. McNabb advises prevention, rather than waiting for the mildew to appear and then attempt a cure. As a preventive, he recommends the use of sulphur.

The subject of dahlias and roses was then taken up, special stress being laid upon the disbudding process as of utmost importance in obtaining good bloom and sturdy plants.

Mr. McNabb's experience in the flower garden covers wide range, and his talk was certainly interesting and his advice of great value and no doubt will be followed by all who heard him. He broadcasts every Wednesday from 2:30 to 3:30 p. m., over station KHJ, Los Angeles, when he will be glad to answer any questions sent in to him.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served by the House Committee during a most enjoyable social hour.

A. S. HILL, Secretary.

The Sept. and October Gardens

GARDEN REMINDERS

By Mary Matthews.

While the most of us think of September as a month to be endured as best we can, a month that is usually dry and dusty, still we must not forget that this is one of the most important for planning our bulb beds, renewing the soil where exhausted making new beds and borders for the bulbs we expect to buy this season, putting back those that were lifted earlier in the season and most important giving our orders to the dealers for those we expect to buy. One thing I have noticed in the various lists of bulbs for sale is that prices have advanced very little from last year, and have you noted how tulips have come to the front, these do not come under the quarantine and dealers who formerly offered them by the hundreds now offer by thousands. Also all the smaller bulbs, but not small in beauty, there is a long list of them that do exceedingly well for us and many of these cannot be grown out of doors in colder sections of the country. In making out your lists be sure and include the Muscari or grape hyacinth, Tritonia Crocata, and the Spanish Iris, every one of which is a beauty. The general treatment of all is about the same, the bulbs are all small and should be put close together for best effect, three inches apart, and two or three inches deep. Plant as soon as you can get the bulbs in a well-drained soil enriched with bone meal. Plant liberally of all the small bulbs, most of them are Cape bulbs, all inexpensive, and your garden will be gay next spring.

Do not delay transplanting your Iris after this month, it will be too late if you wish blooms next season. I hope you have somewhere a bed of the lovely low growing Iris Stylosa. Yesterday, Sept. 1st, I picked my first bloom and will expect them till late in the spring.

Some one in the last Flower Grower says, "If there is to be a community Flower Show in your locality to be sure and take an active interest in it; consider that it is yours as much as any ones, and that it will be just as good as you help make it. Exhibit something even if you do not expect to take a prize." all of which is good advice for our coming show, September 11 and 12.

THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch

Taking it for granted that you have prepared your ground in a general way by irrigating, fertilizing and spading as recommended in the August "Garden", you are ready to keep up the good work of planting for the winter and spring supply of vegetables and flowers. Owing to the fact that some varieties of vegetables use up a greater proportion of certain plant foods than others, and also may be the means of developing certain insect or bacterial pests in the soil, particularly injurious to the variety of plant raised on that particular piece of ground last year, it is a good custom to follow up with plants of different type and character. This is advisable to avoid attacks by insects and diseases, and to insure that second crop shall be thoroughly nourished.

During September a long list of seeds and plants can be put in the ground, including beans, Canadian Wonder and Broad Windsor, Peas, Stratagem and Senator, Cabbage, plants and seed, Cauliflower, Onion, sets and seed, Lettuce, Los Angeles Market, Radish, Parsnip, Hollow Crown, and any other hardy vegetable that I have not named.

Remember that small seeds should be planted from one-fourth to one-half inch in depth, and beans and peas from one and a half to two inches, also that uniform moisture and good cultivation are essential to the success of your crops.

A few seed potatoes planted now should give you new potatoes for Christmas. Mature well for these, cut seed to one or two eyes and plant about five inches deep and fourteen inches apart in the row.

September is one of the best months for planting the early blooming Spencer Sweet Peas. Some of the best novelties are Mary Pickford, delicate pink, slightly suffused salmon; Sweet Lavender, pure lavender; Pink Cherokee, pink suffused salmon on cream ground, and New Blue, dark blue. These are all of recent introduction by the best growers and are outstanding for size of blooms and beauty of color. Of bulbs, continue planting Freesias, both colored and white, and get in Watsonias and Amaryllis Bella Donna. The latter although large bulbs, should be planted with the top of the neck just level with the surface of the ground. Calla lilies can also go in and do well in partial shade,

(Continued on Page 8)

The California Garden

Editor
R. R. McLean
Associate Editors
Miss Mary Matthews
Alfred D. Robinson

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EDITORIAL

WE OWE A DEBT. The physical charm of Southern California is not altogether dependent upon any one feature, either climate, sea or mountains, or beautiful shrubbery or floral display, but is to most of us the result of a combination of these attributes. It should be remembered that we have had nothing whatever to do with the creation of mountains, sea or climate. Our only part in enhancing the natural attractions of our State has been in the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers, although it must be admitted that these have certainly done much to make this section of the state what it is.

What would San Diego, for instance, be like without its peppers, its cocos palms, its cypress and eucalyptus trees, its Norfolk Island pines, its silk oaks, its casuarinas or its acacias? Here we must acknowledge a debt of gratitude to other countries. Practically none of the trees and shrubs we ordinarily grow are native to San Diego or even to California. Nearly all have been introduced from other lands, sometimes by private individuals but more often through governmental agencies. Our Washingtonia palms may be regarded as native, as are also certain of our oaks, cypresses and pines, but for the most part Australia, Asia, Africa and the islands of the sea have furnished us with our most beautiful trees and shrubs. That these

plantings of tropicals and sub-tropicals have a direct appeal to California visitors cannot be denied.

Australia has a climate very similar to our own and it is, therefore, not strange that it should have furnished us with many beautiful and striking trees. Among them are eucalypti and acacias of many species, silk oaks, bottle trees and casuarinas. Norfolk Island pines (Araucarias) originated in the South Sea islands of that name; cocos plumosa palms and Jacarandas are from Brazil; our camphor trees are from China; the Himalayan cedar, cedrus deodara, from the Himalayan mountains of Asia; our Phoenix palms came from Peru; Guadalupe Island palms from the Guadalupe Islands; bougainvilleas of a number of species from Brazil; bamboos from India, China and Japan; dracaenas from New Zealand, and so on ad infinitum

Even many of our fruits are immigrants. Our dates (*P. dactylifera*) came from Africa, pomegranates from Asia and Africa, persimmons and chestnuts from Japan, as well as a number of species of citrus fruits. Avocados from Central America and Mexico, limes from Tahiti and Mexico, mangos from Asia, loquats from Japan, cherimoyas from Ecuador and Peru, natal plums from South Africa, sapotes from Mexico and Central America, jujubes from China and grapes from Europe. A number of our plums, peaches and pears, also originated in Japan and China.

Our pride in Southern California is certainly justifiable, but we should not forget the debt we owe to other countries for their part in making us what we are.

SNAKES, TOADS AND LIZARDS. It is hard for us to break away from ingrained prejudices against animals that creep or crawl on the ground. Snakes, toads and lizards are downright loathsome to most people, notwithstanding the fact that they play an important part in the economy of nature and by reason of their food habits rank with birds as almost indispensable garden aids.

There is no poisonous species of lizard in California, and of the snakes only the rattlers bear that distinction. Toads are, of course, absolutely harmless not even being guilty of causing warts on the hands of boys who handle them, as most of us believed at one time or another.

The food of snakes is largely, if not entirely, rodents and insects. Mice gophers, young squirrels, various species of rats and other rodents form the regulation diet of practically all of our snakes. One gopher has been known to cause incalculable damage to garden trees and other plants in a single night. When snakes are driven away or killed, gophers may work undisturbed. Toads prey upon night-feeding insects, cutworms,

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crickets, ground beetles and similar plant pests. Lizards operate by day and perform the same class of service for the gardener by day that the toad does by night, destroying large numbers of beetles, crickets, flies, worms, etc.

For a long period two San Diego alligator lizards, fully a foot in length, have made their home in the writer's yard, free from any danger of molestation. It is admitted to be a bit startling to have one run out from under your feet unexpectedly, but you can get used to that when you realize they are friendly animals and are only seeking an opportunity to serve you.

For the best interests of our gardens, protect and encourage snakes (except rattlers) toads and lizards. Every meal they catch about your premises means fewer pests for you to fight.

BAMBOO FLOWERS

How many California Garden readers have ever seen a bamboo in flower? Very little is known, it is said, of the botanical character and relationships of bamboos, although they have been in more or less common use for centuries. The reason for this is largely on account of their peculiar flowering and seed habits. Most species are extremely slow in flowering, which makes a systematic study of the flowers very difficult.

In order to properly identify and classify specimens it is necessary to study the flowers and fruits. Some species will grow for 30, 40 or 50 years before flowering and curiously enough many of them will die immediately after this event has taken place. Whole bamboo forests have been known to disappear after flowering. It is stated by Freeman-Mitford that "When a given moment has come every plant of the same kind, whether old or young over a vast region, will put forth its flowers at the same time, and, having seeded, the plant disappears." A Belgian firm is recorded as having grown and studied more than a hundred species of bamboos for 28 years, and during that time only saw eight in flower.

TESTING SEEDS

Occasionally flower or other seeds have been kept for so long that there exists some doubt as to germination. Before using valuable space in the garden to plant them, perhaps with unsatisfactory results and the loss of much time, it is wise to test such seeds for germination. This can be done at home very easily and with simple apparatus.

The apparatus consists of two plates, either tin, enamel or china, and two pieces of blotting paper cut to fit the plates. Put one of

the blotters which has been thoroughly soaked with water in the bottom of one of the plates. Place on this wet blotter a number of seeds, keeping the count. Next place the second blotter, also soaked with water, over the seeds and on top of all lay the second plate. Keep in a fairly warm place and examine daily. Wet the blotters as they become dry. After 10 days or two weeks a count can be made of the seeds that have germinated and from this can be determined the percentage of germination and if it will be worth while to plant the seed or not. An idea can also be gotten as to how thick to sow the seed.

A FRIENDLY COMMENT

The fifth of June the San Diego Association held its 20th annual meeting. Mrs. Mary A. Greer was elected president, and B. L. Elliott, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., but now a resident of our southern city, was chosen to care for the funds of the Association. Robert McLean was drafted to fill the editorial chair of *The California Garden*, a publication of the Society, which is unique in that neither the editor nor any one connected with it gets a cent for his or her services; nevertheless, it is considered of enough merit to be kept on file in the Government Library at Washington, D. C.

Those same intrepid enthusiasts will hold their Fall Flower Show September 11 and 12 (Saturday and Sunday) during the daytime only. When night comes they close the doors, go to bed early, and forget all about the worries of a show. Readers of this journal may be interested to know that these altruists also have what they call "informal shows"—for instance, September 15, last year, a Dahlia show; October 22, a Chrysanthemum exhibit; November 3, an exhibition and a distribution of bulbs; November 17, a berried shrub and seed pod exhibition; March 4, 1926, an exhibition of Acacia flowers in bloom; March 16, ferns; and all these besides the regular Spring Flower Show, the 25th of the same month.

If there is any other organization in this land of the free whose object is the promotion of ornamental horticulture, with a similar record of activity, I shall be pleased to know its name.—P. D. Barnhart, in *The Florists Exchange*.

COMPLETE FILES FOR SALE

Complete files of *California Garden* can now be had at a very nominal price. These files go back to the year 1909, and each copy is filled with valuable data for garden lovers. Address all inquiries to Box No. 323, San Diego, California.

TREES AND SHRUBS OF CALIFORNIA GARDENS

By Charles Francis Saunders.

Mr. Saunders has written another book and I am glad of it, for he is with books as a lady of my acquaintance was said to be with babies, her's were so altogether admirable that her doctor said she ought to keep on having them and he did not mention any limit. This *Trees and Shrubs* is truly *Saundersonian*. I presume it is a history rather than a romance, but it reads blessedly like the latter, and it has made my trees and shrubs much more companionable, they are more personalities rather than specimens. It won't be long before where two or three are gathered together in garden shade the lulls in the conversation will be punctured with, Do you know what Saunders says about this tree or this shrub? The book is well illustrated and printed on good paper with large, plain print, just as if printing and paper could be had for the asking. You read this book and then if you don't agree with me, why I guess you can tell Mr. Saunders for I shan't alter my opinion.

Mr. Saunders has presented a copy of *Trees and Shrubs* to the Floral Library in Balboa Park.

A. D. R.

THE GARDEN

(Continued from Page 5)

being fond of a moist, rich soil.

Take advantage of September for sowing and planting annuals and perennials while the ground is still warm. Growth will be much slower under colder conditions later on. Put in seeds of poppy now and later, there are many beautiful colors to be had in the California poppy—*Nemesia* is another very attractive annual for bedding purposes and will bloom here during late winter and spring and well into the summer. It grows from 10 to 15 inches high and the blooms are most attractive coming in colorings of buff, orange, pink and delicate shades blotched and striped.

Dimorphotheca Aurantica, African Orange Daisy, another good winter flowering annual, 12 to 15 inches high, blossoms about 2½ inches in diameter of a glossy orange color and Marguerite type rendered more conspicuous by a dark colored disc, surrounded by a black zone. Will bloom during winter, spring and early summer and is particularly adapted for planting in edgings, borders or beds for mass effect.

Calendulas, both orange and lemon color are easy to grow and bloom the greater part of the year.

Of perennials there are many that should go in now, *Aquilegia* or Columbine, Canterbury Bells, *Coreopsis*, *Delphinium*, *Gaillardia*, *Pentstemon* and others.

DESERT LEGUMES

A student of desert flora is certain to note the occurrence there of a large number of leguminous or pod-bearing plants, all of which are apparently native to such places. As a matter of fact they form an extremely important part of desert plant life. It will be noted, also, that most of these plants bear numerous sharp thorns, or spines.

One very interesting desert legume is a native acacia, the so-called cat's claw. It will grow and thrive in exceptionally dry and poor soils. There are said to be over 400 species of acacias in various parts of the world, by far the larger number being native to Australia. Acacias are of very ancient origin and, according to Sudworth, many species existed in an early geologic period.

The mesquites constitute another branch of the legume family. They are probably the most important trees in the arid southwest. They develop an enormous taproot "out of all proportion to the often insignificant stems above ground". It is said that the larger the stem is above ground the smaller the root development and that low shrubby stems commonly have huge taproots descending to water 50 to 60 feet, or more. There are two species usually encountered in the desert here, one simply called mesquite and the other screwpod mesquite. The latter bears peculiar spirally twisted pods that serve to readily identify this species. They also have sharp, tough spines.

There are other desert legumes perhaps not so well known as the two species mentioned in the preceding note, but none the less interesting. The *Parkinsonias* or horse-beans are represented by two species, both of them found in Southern California deserts. One particularly, the so-called Jerusalem thorn, is used for specimen plantings outside of the desert areas, its foliage and flowering habit being exceptionally attractive. Another desert legume, one of the most beautiful in flower of any desert plant, is the Palo Verde. The tips of the branches in the spring are covered with great masses of yellow bloom, visible at long distances, and there is no more beautiful tree in flower, cultivated or wild, than the desert-loving Palo Verde.

Two other legumes found in the desert country are the indigo bush and the Mexican iron-wood. The former is usually a small shrub, although sometimes it grows into a low bushy tree, spiny and much branched. The flowers are deep indigo in color. The Mexican iron-wood has no particular economic value, except as a source of fuel. It seems to be able to thrive in hot, desert regions and is quite long-lived.

R. R. M.

ON THE ROCKS

By the Early Bird

If one wants confirmation of the Darwin theory of man's origin, gardening operations surely supply the same very ample. Before I ever came to this country I visited on a farm in England, ostensibly to pick up pointers that might be useful in the wild far west, but really to enjoy that blissful state of being, about to go but not gone, when all the world is extra kind. I wandered about that farm with its neatly fenced little green fields and one morning arrived in an enclosure where browsed a small flock of large and woolly sheep, one of these happened to look up in swallowing too big a mouthful and saw me and immediately departed over the fence, when all the others without any excuse whatever promptly made similar flight, they never saw me at all, why should they, that other sheep had jumped the fence therefore they did. Incidentally I learned later that these were gentlemen sheep, being ostracised, so to speak, and caused their gentle shepherd considerable grief before they were once again in their little meadow. You must find out why, when I think of gardening, this flight of the divorced comes to my mind. Just now I am worried about Rock Gardens, I cannot help but be, for I stumble over the rocks in all sorts of unexpected places. I believe that I have before said that I think gardening is an art allied to loafing, it should not at any stage induce tension, either in the gardener or the gardening. All results should suggest relaxation rather than strain and the keynote should be Comfort. Comfort for both man and plant.

Now from Europe to this Pacific Coast the Rock Garden wave is billowing. Half the European Gardening Press is about Rock Gardens, they make them out of doors, indoors and on their balconies, and their missionaries are abroad spreading the faith. Even San Diego has been visited and with her plentiful supply of various kinds of rocks it is inevitable that some weird things in Rock Gardens will be dotted around.

Let me say I am not writing against the Rock Garden, for no one loves rocks more than I do, for many purposes, among others to throw now and then, but I do think there is a place to rock and a place to stop from rocking in the garden as well as in the boat. Only a short time since a lady complained in a rather hopeless way, that her adviser in things of the garden wanted to put piles of rocks in the middle of some of her beds, she said I cannot see them. This is mentioned mere to emphasize the danger of promiscuous rock gardening. No other feature of a garden requires more careful fitting into environment, nor is so dependent on that environment. It is doubtful whether a rock garden can be really fitted into a flat landscape.

However, San Diego has hundreds of ideal locations for this feature. The Rock Garden seems to call for a spot of its own, that is it should be a self-contained feature and not just a part of something else. The natural rock gardens in our canyons are by no means rare, in them the rock is placed as it is practically impossible to emulate artificially. At the head of Mission Valley at the mouth of the gorge on the east side are perfect rock gardens perfectly planted with ferns and other things that in a spring of good rains are a joy, but their plant beauty is distinctly seasonal, and in that fact lies one of the difficulties of the tame attempt. The rock garden of Europe is a wet, cool proposition, our rocks are a hot dry contrast. When a boy I have seen our gardener after planting broadcast turnips, go over the bed placing stones promiscuously around, and the best turnips grew under those stones. His problem was to attract heat, our is to keep cool.

No one who has seen with seeing eyes the combination of our grey rocks with the wild flora particularly the various *mimulus* can fail to realize that there are rock gardens not only possible for us but presenting possibilities altogether admirable, but they are not the miniature affairs of the European cult of today. A few years ago on the Black Mountain grade to Mesa Grande, in a creek bed full of grey granite boulders there was a miraculous clump of the clear yellow fleshy stemmed *mimulus* placed in the picture to a thousandth part of an inch, so wonderful that it was breath taking, and right at the top of the grade was a bush of the pale cream shrubby variety apparently coming up from under a big boulder, the one a perfect wet note, the other a dry compliment.

In our native hardpan we have a garden gift indeed, but it can be used and often is used incongruously. In the right setting it is perfect in color modulation and irregularity of shape but thrown into a formal scheme it is simply untidy.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive treatise on this subject, probably no one will think it is, but the object of it is to try and inject a bit of thought on the matter before our garden folks order a load of rocks dumped on the street in front of them, it is really well to consider whether to rock or not to rock.

DAHLIAS FOR EXHIBITION

In growing Dahlias for exhibition one must start the season with that idea firmly in mind and be satisfied to grow for quality of flowers, regardless of the pangs caused by the necessity of sacrificing many promising shoots and buds. Quantities of flowers for bouquets, do not, as a rule, give the grower much chance on the exhibition tables unless many plants of each variety are grown.

The first question which naturally arises concerns the qualifications a Dahlia must possess to make a good exhibition flower, and then the selection. One quality absolutely essential for cut flower work, viz. a good, strong stem, may be ignored on the exhibition table, but the flower must have the following properties, good substance; a clear, refined color; not defaced by the ravages of insects; and able to stand a long journey without wilting or crushing. Some varieties which make grand additions to an exhibit cannot be used because of their poor carrying qualities, and hence should be avoided.

The statement about "stem" refers only to displays of one flower in a bottle, while a strong stem is obviously a great factor in vase exhibits. We have catered altogether too much to single-flower exhibits, ignoring the more graceful and pleasing vase display. There, and there only, can the prospective buyer obtain a fair estimate of the qualifications certain flowers possess for the purpose there is nothing that relieves the monotonous of bouquets and table decorations. Again, stretch of numerous single flowers, perched in single bottles like a few artistically arranged vases, preferably containing a half dozen or more specimens of one variety, sprinkled at intervals on the long tables. The custom prevailing, is to exhibit one flower in a bottle and so placed as to make a flat display of color, relieved occasionally by a bit of green, and sometimes even that is conspicuous by its absence. To the writer's mind, the display in bottles can be made much more attractive if the rows from front to rear are arranged on a gradual incline, making the rear tier four to five inches higher than the front one. In this case, strong-stemmed, good-keeping flowers are an absolute necessity, and should be planned for.

If growing Dahlias for exhibition is the main object, and only one or two of a kind are grown, the safest method is to plant strong field-grown tubers. Flowers cannot be timed as well from plants, unless they are given an early start allowing time for the side shoots to develop.

A good soil is quite essential. An open spot should be selected and the soil well trenched with manure in the fall. The following spring plow deep, or better yet spade thoroughly, making the ground mellow as possible. Drive your stakes and everything is in readiness for a good start. The question immediately arises: "Which shall I plant, field roots, pot roots or green plants?" The writer's ideas along this line have not changed materially. If exhibition is the main object, and one has a goodly number of each variety, plants are the most satisfactory. One thing must be considered, however, the flowers cannot be timed as well from plants unless they are given an early start, allowing time for the side shoots to develop. If only

one or two of a variety are grown, the safest method is to plant strong, field-grown tubers.

As growth progresses, keep everything snug by tying as early as possible and often, taking care not to bind too tightly. Allow but one stalk to a hill, and, when they begin to branch, brush off the alternate side shoots as soon as they form. If this duty is conscientiously performed one is not compelled to remove large branches to the detriment of the plant. The leaves act as the lungs of the plant and the wholesale removal of these life-distributing organs robs them of the needed support and growth is retarded.

Assuming that the Dahlias have attained a good size, begin feeding with liquid manures. The first two or three may be of cow manure, with an occasional dose of nitrate of soda. Varieties must be studied to ascertain the time required to develop a flower from the setting of the bud, and always try to have two or three buds in various stages of growth as the weather conditions play an important part in the slow or rapid development of the flowers. When the buds show color stop all chemical fertilizers and confine all feeding to liquid cow manure, also commence shading. Now one must fight, fight, fight, then fight some more to keep down the chinch bugs, grasshoppers, slugs and numerous other pests.

Having obtained a goodly number of blossoms, selection is our next task or pleasure, as the case may be. Harmonious colors are of the utmost consideration and here great care is needed. Strong contrasts do not impress as a harmonious blending of colors and shades. Whites, yellows and maroons are almost a necessity.

Wait until sundown on the day preceding the show, then gather the flowers, and as soon as possible, plunge deeply into water, taking care to make a fresh cut at the base of the stem if any delay is experienced before they are given a drink. Avoid soaking the foliage as the leaves assume a sickly hue if immersed in water a long time. Pack carefully, then hie yourself to the exhibition to take all the blue ribbons in sight.

If vases are to be exhibited, plenty of foliage means a big gain in effect, while for bottle displays one leaf to a flower usually suffices. Tastes differ as to the most effective arrangement, some preferring an even display, while others choose a gradual incline. To the writer's mind the latter is preferable if a reasonable number of long, stiff-stemmed flowers are in the collection. A mixture of extremely large and corresponding small flowers must not occur, uniform size counting largely in the judging of an exhibit. While the words "arranged for effect" are often omitted from our schedules, it must be remembered that judges are human, and the first impressions weigh heavily in forming final judgments. It may not be amiss at this

(Continued on Page 16)

MUMMY TALES AND SEED FACTS

By R. R. McLean.

The writer was recently shown a number of garden and field seeds found in an earthen jar that had been discovered in an Arizona cliff following some blasting. The seeds were chiefly peas, beans, melons, corn, etc. The owner confidently expects to obtain germination and subsequently a crop. Whether he can do this or not remains to be seen, but it is certainly unlikely.

How long will seeds retain their vitality? Most of the tales one hears of the germination of seeds hundreds or thousands of years ago are either pure fabrications or at least are not founded upon anything more substantial than rumor. The majority of tales of this character have to do with seeds found in Egyptian mummy cases. The stories are interesting and make good reading, even if no verification is possible.

The first story of this character, according to the California State Department of Agriculture, seems to have originated in 1840 when a dozen grains of wheat were sent to England with a statement that they had been found in a vase taken from a tomb which held a mummy. Two poor heads from one plant resulted from the sowing of this seed, but it never was established that it came from Egypt or was of ancient origin. Many times wheat has been actually found in Egyptian tombs, but an examination of such grain has always developed a dead embryo. Wheat has been kept under the best possible conditions for 16 years and when planted only 8 per cent of 750 seeds germinated. When kept for 35 years and planted no germination at all took place.

Later and more recent reports have been to the effect that morning glory seed found in connection with an ancient tomb, germinated. This story is a little more elaborate than some others and contained the statement that these seeds, 12 in number, were found in the hand of the mummy of a young girl excavated from a tomb 5000 years old. All the 12 seeds germinated, according to the story, and when the plants matured blue morning-glories (or sweet peas, one account had it) "looking like a tiny Egyptian face" were produced. No verification of this tale, of course, was ever made. Another equally fantastic, but apparently true, story had to do with four oat seeds taken from a mummy case 2600 years old. These seeds were taken from the bottom of the case in the presence of creditable witnesses and two seeds each were given different persons. All four germinated and it was believed that an absolutely authentic germination of ancient seeds had at last been proven. Investigation, however, re-

vealed the fact that the mummy case before being sent to England had been stored in the stables of the Khedive in contact with hay and oats. There the wooden case, due to exposure to dry air, had split open, allowing the oats to sift in through the cracks.

More or less recent experiments, carefully undertaken, throw considerable light upon the periods of viability of field and weed seeds. Weed seeds, unfortunately, have shown a tendency to live longer than economic seeds. Authentic tests indicate that the seeds of Shepherds purse, Mustard, Purslane, Pigeon grass, Pigweed, Mayweed, Dock and Chickweed will retain their viability for more than 30 years.

The most reliable information we have concerning the germination of any considerable number of old seeds was furnished by two men, Becquerel and Ewart, early in the present century. In 1907 Becquerel tested the germination of some 500 kinds of seeds which had been preserved in the Natural History Museum of Paris, authentic records of their ages being at hand. The ages of these seeds ranged from 25 to 135 years, but the oldest he succeeded in germinating was a species of Cassia, 87 years of age. Ewart in 1908 published a list of 4000 varieties of seeds with their known viability records. Among these were some 600 species of a known age of more than 40 years. All these seeds, it is said, had exceptionally strong and impermeable coverings.

Pine seeds have been germinated in the U. S. D. A. seed laboratory when 30 years old. Seeds of the sacred lily of India, *Nelumbium speciosum*, if sown as soon as ripe will germinate under water in less than a month. If exposed to the air for any length of time they will harden to such an extent that it is almost impossible to break them. If the coat is scratched or filed, however, and moisture admitted the seeds will germinate in 24 hours. This is evidently a provision of nature that should the pond in which the plant is growing dry up, and the seed fails to fall into water, it can lie dormant for years or until the pond is again filled with water. Seeds of *Nelumbium* have retained their vitality for the longest period authentically determined thus far. An English botanist of the early part of the 19th century, Robert Brown, recorded the fact that seeds of the sacred lily had been sent to the botanical department of the British Museum some 150 years previously, that he had found them in their original boxes and had succeeded in germinating them.

LATH HOUSE MATTERS

By Alfred D. Robinson.

Though I don't think one Cooper makes an early Fall any more than a single swallow clinches a summer, I do observe unusually early signs of slackening among Begonias, especially the tuberous, and I am fearful for the seed harvest which is largely gathered in September, so if you contemplate saving seed do it now, as the good children's book says. It is also advisable to push along tuberous seedlings as much as possible that sizeable tubers may be formed. This pushing must not be understood to be stimulating with nitrate or similar acting hurry-ups, for such will produce top growth at the expense of tuber formation, but must be confined to a careful attention to watering, shading in the heat of the day and allowing space for proper air and light exposure. My experience has been that fertilizing of the tuberous Begonia is apt to be fatal to the tuber and those specimens I have fed for bloom have seldom given a worth while growth the next year.

Judging by the questions asked me by visitors to my lath house, and these articles are largely based thereon, there is considerable seedling stuff still in flats and some in seed vessels. If the material in flats is crowding, it should be potted at once, using a small two-inch pot and these pots sunk in a bench or the ground. The compost must be quite sandy and good drainage assured. I find that I can grow a nice tuber in pots as small as these if they be plunged in a good compost, for the roots go through the pot and feed below, while the burying keeps the pot moist and cool. The bench compost I make quite coarse as year by year I learn that Begonias generally hate a fine sifted soil. If there is ample room in the flats it may be safer to leave the seedlings to grow there and mature their tubers. The flat can then be put away till the time for starting them up. In this case the main danger is from dryness, the soil must be kept just from that, but not wet. Lots of seedlings are now in bloom and ordinarily one could count on another six weeks of growth, which is a long time with the tuberous. With your old tubers let them mature as they seem to indicate the desire, by watering sparingly but on no account let them get really dry. A good plan for marking them is to have ordinary pot labels painted in colors, red, yellow, pink and the qualifying light or dark, double or single, can be written on. Don't attempt to get them out of the soil for some time, the skin of the tuber is fine like a potato and when fresh can be easily bruised.

Don't imagine your lath house display is over for the season because the tuberous are slackening and the mornings show an ever increasing shower of leaves on the paths. Put

your tuberous away to ripen out of the picture, be sure that the tall tree kinds are getting enough water, put the sprinkler on all over the house, preferably in the morning now for the nights are appreciably cooling, and look over all the winter bloomers. First of these I consider the heavenly twins, Jessie, the plain one, and Templini, the one with the freckles. These should be repotted and restaked and placed where some sun can color them up. I have seen very handsomely colored Templini grown quite a bit back from the Coast in an almost hot lath house and I have myself had grand service from a pair of large ones on a front entry exposed to the morning sun. These two Begonias have not been given the appreciation they deserve as potted and boxed plants for winter blooming. Then there is *Verschafelti* now showing a renewed energy that can hardly be surpassed when topped with its pink crown of glory. Pot up one of these; selecting a young plant that has not cultivated the long goose neck of a stem. *Gilsoni* is another, its delicate crested blooms just flushing pink, the only double fibrous. For hanging baskets we have *Feastii*, *Bunchii*, Mrs. Townsend, *Manicata aurea* and plain. There is no time to waste if these are to make a showing for holiday time, take care of them now and give them attention, right along. There is no reason for the holiday season having only Lorraine, Chatelaine and *Cincinnati* in the show window to represent the Begonia family. If you like real daintiness *Nitida* will give it you, plants that were in full bloom in pots last November are still blooming now in August, such should be headed back and repotted. A host of our bedders can be bloomed, dig up a good, sturdy plant from your garden and pot it, head it well back and grow it in strong light so as to make it stocky. I grew a plant of the dwarf white *Helen Bofinger* in this way last winter that for form and size beat any of the so-called winter bloomers I ever saw. I have hesitated about mentioning that wonderful thing *Rosea Gigantea*, because one of my chief chores for the last weeks has been to herd the trade off my limited stock. If you have followed my advice you have had this in a cool place in the ground and it will now be growing fast, making its wonderful nearly round vivid green leaves with a bright red spot at the stem juncture. It can be potted now and if growing weedy headed back. A few blooms may start but exercise restraint and pinch them out. The quite meagre display of this I had last winter has evidently not been forgotten. A visitor from up North after circulating through my lath house triumphantly

announced, I have a kind you have not, it is so and so and the description pretty well fitted *Rosea Gigantea* so I had to admit I had it but kept it hidden, and ever since wished I had kept still and possibly added another plant to my stock, I cannot imagine any one having too much of it.

I am quite aware that I am going over ground covered quite recently but I also realize the value of repetition. The Victrola has just finished the Gingerbread Boy and today I had to read about that little Red Hen who made monkeys of the dog and cat and the duck. When I was a boy in a far country the minister of a neighboring parish preached an unvarying cycle of four sermons, finally a committee from the parishioners waited on him. They said: We full recognize the supreme merit of the four sermons you have preached to us in recurring sequence, but we have come to ask if you could not give us something fresh, and he replied: When I see that those four have had any effect upon you, I will consider another.

You perhaps remember that I recorded my thanks to Fred Howard, he of the Los Angeles rose fame, for suggesting to me rain water as a tippie peculiarly pleasing to *Rex Begonias*. Well he came to see me again bearing precious gifts, he spoke almost reverently of a sand he had discovered at Corona which for propagating was simply miraculous. For a time I hesitated over getting sand, such a heavy substance from so far, but finally I gave in and have some of it. It is as white as salt, looks like it and various cuttings are now embedded in it as though bathing in immaculate porcelain, but the test is only begun, however it does look so clean. I shall report later.

Among my visitors was a lady from Nicaragua whose husband grows coffee while she *Begonias*. As far as I could gather from her description both by word and gesture the *Begonias* seriously interfered with the coffee by growing over and under and through it. I did clearly understand that she had tuberous so nearly black that even a conscientious colorist might have called it such and that encourages me as I have a lot of seedlings advertised as velvet black. We shall exchange seed unless she forgets.

I must tell you a story heard in the lath house from a former dweller in China. This one had a rich Chinese friend whose chief hobby was flowers and fruits in the culture of which he employed many gardeners and who, being requested to mention something he would like from America, specified seed of Dahlias and Cantaloupes, admitting a great fondness for the latter. The seed of both kinds was procured and presented and in due season a report on progress was bespoken. Oh the Dahlias did very well, replied the Chinese

(Continued on Page 14)

Special Hot Weather Sale of Plants

Just to stimulate an interest in plants during the hot weather, we have cut the price down to where every one can buy. WE HAVE THE MOST COMPLETE COLLECTION OF FANCY FERNS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. They are all on special at 35c each in medium sizes. Tree ferns from \$1 to \$5. Thousands of begonias, including 300 *Rexes*, all go at 25c. 20 varieties palm trees, 50c and up.

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Note: This is a bonifide sale where prices are cut from 25 to 75%. No we are not going out of business nor forced to vacate. We are just "cleaning house". Sale ends August 15.

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THE LATH HOUSE (Continued from Page 13)

gentleman, but the cantaloupes were very small. How small? was asked. Oh about the size of walnuts. Well how did you grow them? Oh they grew fast enough, first we put in an eight foot stake and then had to add six more feet. The poor cantaloupe was run up a stake with all side growths kept off. Discussion of cultural practice for cantaloupe followed and now two Chinse gardeners do nothing but raise cantaloupes for their employer and his friends.

CHRYSANTHEMUM HINTS

By Mrs. Edward Strahlmann.

This month when buds form on chrysanthemums of all kinds, is the time to begin to fertilize. For those that cannot or do not feel inclined to attend to their plants every few days, the best plan is to cover the ground with a two-inch mulch of cow manure.

Tie up all branches selected for blooms. On large kinds it is best to keep six or eight branches, each branch to have one or two flowers. It is usually best to keep about eight blooms to a plant. Remove all side shoots so that all nourishment goes to the blossoms. Tie securely with raffia, as some years rain comes before blooming period is over and if not tied the branches break off easily.

This year has been an exceptionally good one about rust for Southern California. Never water after 2 p. m. as late watering induces rust. Early morning is the best time and do not water overhead after buds begin to expand. When blooms are about one-third open stretch a light canvas or muslin over them to protect from fading and dust.

To those that have time—fertilize every ten days with liquid manure or 1 ounce of ammonia sulphate to three or four gallons of water, watering once with clean water between each application of fertilizer. But do not use both kinds of fertilizer, and you will feel amply repaid in size of blooms.

All buds should be selected from August 10th to August 25th on all kinds except very late varieties, which should be taken the first week of November. The earlier the bud is reserved the more double the flower and lighter in color. If a variety produces open center flowers the bud was reserved too late for that plant. If they are too double and do not open out well they were selected too early. Make note of the various kinds and the following year the memorandum will be very beneficial.

After all is said and done the best and most practical way is to "start right in" and grow chrysanthemums with a good trowel, some good plants and plenty of determination to succeed. You can't help being successful.

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ARISTOCRATS OF THE GARDEN

By Ernest H. Wilson, M. A., V. M. H. (The Stratford Company, Boston, 1926. \$5.00)

Those who have found enthrallment in the pages of "Americas Greatest Garden" will greet with whetted appetite the opportunely prompt appearance of another fine book by the same author. While the later volume, which we understand to be essentially an enlarged and glorified edition of a rare and little known earlier work, is not perhaps quite so smoothly written as the treatise on the Arboretum, and the two volumes cover in part at least a somewhat similar field, no disciple of the undefatigable "Chinese" Wilson will be deterred from having both on his shelves. While the two works are quite alike in general character, the one now published contains a wealth of new and fascinating material, and as it treats of a far wider variety of plants, it should meet with a very greatly expanded circle of interest. Among the features which will insure the book a wide demand are particularly fine chapters on fruited shrubs, on autumn color, on roses, lilacs, azaleas, and finally the romantic tale of adventure at the end, in which the author's successful search for the wonderful *Davidia*, "most interesting and most beautiful of all trees which grow in the north temperate regions" is delightfully historied.

The strong New England slant which prevails through many pages is generously tempered a number of times, notably by the inclusion of an exceedingly interesting section on some of the less hardy Chinese plants, largely of Mr. Wilson's own discovery, which are recommended for culture on the Pacific Coast. Chinese plants, of course, largely predominate throughout the book.

As usual with Mr. Wilson's writings a tremendous amount of useful information is pleasingly imparted beyond the mere descriptions of the plants themselves. For instance, there is a comparative discussion of the respective merits of various hardy conifers. One learns why the spruces have proven so much less satisfactory as ornamental subjects than the firs, and all along are brought in useful bits of practical detail such as the fondness of most lilacs for lime, the aversion of the Regal and other lilies to artificial feedings, and similar items of helpful advice. Speaking of the lilies, and more particularly of that glorious quartet from the wilds of western China which have come into so much notice of late, what a boundless satisfaction it must be to Mr. Wilson to have been the happy discoverer of two (*L. sargentiae* and *thayerae*), the introducer of an additional one (*regale*), and the efficient agent through whom the last one (*henryi*) came into common cultivation. Yet this is only one, and probably by no means the greatest, single achievement to this exploring botanist's credit.

Lovers of the Japanese Cherry, among whom Mr. Wilson himself is far from least ardent, are admonished to grow the single sorts from seeds as the resulting trees are thriftier and more satisfactory than the usual grafted ones. He is equally emphatic as to the advisability of propagating azaleas the same way while for the lilacs, he finds "no valid reason" for propagating them other than by cuttings when "the advantage to the garden lover is obvious and lasting". The rhododendron chapter makes available a wealth of valuable experience to would-be growers of these royal shrubs. We are justly advised to work for hardier strains to our own raising rather than continuing to court certain disappointment by the repeated importation of tender plants from abroad, for this can be but an illusory solution of America's principal garden problem. "Neither," continues the same paragraph, from which our sympathies compel further quotation, "will digging plants from the mountains of Pennsylvania, shipping them in carload lots to furnish the estate and coaxing them in every possible way" accomplish any better end. "This despoiling of the countryside is more reprehensible. It is vandalism; it is destructive and absolutely opposed to the true spirit of gardening which essays to be constructive". Right here is perhaps the keynote of the entire book. It is essentially constructive, and not only American gardeners, but American gardens will be immeasurably the gainers for every such work that is put from the press.

"I am often asked," writes the author in his comprehensive prologue, "why many of the Aristocrats I tell of are so rare and difficult to come by. The indifference and ignorance of the gardening public and of those who make a business of catering to its wants is a truthful, albeit rather brutal, answer. A discerning public always raises the standard of quality and creates a demand. And demand can and will create the supply. . . . Let culture and taste demand any class of plant and the professional grower finds good business in supplying it. . . . With patience and insistence there is nothing to prevent our gardens being replete with all that is most beautiful and best among that culled from near or uttermost parts of the earth or evolved through the skill of the plant-breeder. Knowledge and an insistent demand will solve the problem of supply." And "it is in variety and not in uniformity that beauty must be sought". This is true in many fields besides gardens—more power, E. H. Wilson, to your elbow!

It is unusual in an American book to find a precise discrimination between the heather or ling, and the true heaths (*Erica*), although the botany of such a distinction is sound, and it is indeed a relief to find the arborvitae (*Thuja*, *Chamaecyparis*, and their tribe) called that squarely instead of the meaningless "cedars."

S. S. B.

GARDENERS

By Peter D. Barnhart.

The first man of whom any record was made, was a Gardener. He was put in the Garden by the creator of it to "dress and to keep it."

Reader! please observe that he was to dress and to keep it. That meant work, and plenty of it. Many people who read the story seem to think that all the man had to do was to loll in the shade of some wide spreading, broad leaved evergreen tree, and, when hungry, gather whatever fruit or vegetable for food, which appealed to his taste. This is a mistaken idea. Then, as now, an idle man becomes a worthless man, and sooner or later comes to grief, as was the case with the first gardener. There are all sorts of Gardeners. I shall attempt to describe four species of the genus Homo.

The Lazy Gardener.

This is the lad who does as little work as he possibly can do and hold his job. He permits weeds to grow in the flower beds which saps them of food and moisture necessary for the development of the trees and plants intended for pleasure and for profit. He does not keep the soil worked, which is a necessity, and that for three reasons.

First, to prevent evaporation of moisture. Second, for aeration. Air as it filters through the soil imparts some of its nitrogen to the ground, and this element is an absolute essential to the growth and development of vegetable life. Third, insect life which pupates in the earth, is held in check; some of the pupa destroyed by contact with the hoe, others brought to the surface and become food for birds.

The Careless Gardener

He may be an industrious chap and at the same time permit garden tools to clutter up the place. Boxes, broken pots, discarded tin cans, and litter of all sorts disfigure his grounds. Then, too, he seldom removes the soil from hoes, shovels, hand cultivators, which become rusty and thus add ten fold to his labors, because a rusty implement is put into the ground with difficulty.

The Egotistic Gardener.

Oh! the egotistic fellow who goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Usually he is equipped with a pair of pruning shears, which he carries in his hip pocket, then fares forth to prey upon the credulity of his fellowman. He is imbued with the idea that he is the center of the solar system of the Art of Gardening. He is not always talkative; usually he is very voluminous in speech. Boasts of his knowledge, of the profession, and tells of his achievements, in convincing language. Sooner or later his ignorance is discovered by his employer, who hands him his pay check with the request to leave the premises. This specie of gardener is never abashed. He will approach the next subject with the same nerve

as he did the last one and usually succeeds, and this success creates a suspicion in the mind of men and women who are after the services of a

Stodious Gardener.

And what shall be said of this species? He it is who makes an effort to master the profession in all its details. He is industrious. While at work, digging, plowing and planting his mind is also at work, planning, observing, reasoning out the problems that confront every man who has ever attempted to extract a living from old mother earth.

Then, too, he is learning the names and the nativity of the trees and plants in his garden. And what a task that is. Especially in this Southland where more Species and Varieties of plants may be grown in the open, or in a Lath House than any other section of these United States, Florida not excepted. He finds as much delight in the care of the plants he cultivates, as most mothers do in the care of their babies. He aspires to know plant life as he knows his multiplication table. In course of time he becomes a living, walking Cyclopedia of the Vegetable Kingdom, and is so generous with his acquired knowledge that he cheerfully answers questions, asked him by his less fortunate fellows of the craft.

He studies to express himself in language so simple that, even though he uses technical terms at time, it is a joy, a delight to listen to his conversation. Plants thrive under his loving care, and respond to the tenderness bestowed on them, whether it be in the form of food and drink; a shelter from the storm, or a shield from the brilliant California sunlight. His walk among men is with dignity and distinction, while his name and picture may not appear in the dailies, yet when the curtain rings down on the act he played in the drama of life, his works will follow him, and be to his surviving fellowmen a benediction.

DAHLIAS

(Continued from Page 10)

time to remind exhibitors of the trying position judges occupy, and if they do not view our exhibit in the same kindly light as we do ourselves, leaving us without the coveted prize, let us depart in peace, resolved to "do or die" next time, and be charitable in our opinions.—Bulletin of the Dahlia Society of California.

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